THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Government has recently received suggestions from Dr. Swaminathan on Special Agriculture Zones. However, at present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government on Special Agriculture Zones.

Second Green Revolution

†2633. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to implement the scheme to give concrete shape to Second Green Revolution in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the State of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal have been identified for the purpose of production of major foodgrains such as rice and wheat;

(c) whether it is a fact that 28 crore tonnes of foodgrains would be required by the year 2020, keeping in view the population growth as one of the factors responsible for the status of and decline in the productivity of foodgrains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) In view of the need for increase in production and productivity of major cereal crops and pulses to achieve self-sufficiency in foodgrains production, a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'National Food Security Mission' has been approved to be launched from 2007-08. For the implementation of the Mission, districts have been identified having productivity of rice, wheat and pulses below the State average including districts from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal. Besides, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana has also been approved to be launched from 2007-08 in the country including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal for holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors.

(c) and (d) According to report of the XI Plan Working Group on Crop Husbandry, Agricultural Inputs, Demand and Supply Projections and Agricultural Statistics, 244 million tonnes of foodgrain would be required in the country by the year 2011-12. Further, a high level Committee on long term grain policy constituted by Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution under the Chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen, in their report, submitted in July, 2002, mentioned that the total food and feed demand for cereals in 2020 works out to 260 million tonnes.

Decreasing land holding

2634. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agricultural operations in a small piece of land have become unviable once the land holding becomes too small;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether any study has been conducted to ascertain the requirement of minimum land holding for the purposes of viability of agricultural operations;

(c) if so, the details in this regard;

(d) whether Government are contemplating to withhold too much fragmentation of agricultural land; and

(e) what is the average area held by a farmer in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Economic viability of land holdings depend on whether the same is under multiple cropping, high-valued crops, technology is appropriate and prices are remunerative. Some research studies conducted by various Agro-Economic Research Centres show the fallout of decrease in size of holdings are rise in small and marginal holdings, narrow base of production activities and underemployment.

(d) Consolidation of fragmented agricultural land holdings forms an integral part of the Land Reform Policy. However, the role of the Central Government is only of an advisory and coordinating nature as the subject of land reforms falls within the administrative jurisdiction of the State Governments. Accordingly, State Governments have been requested from time to time for taking up consolidation of holdings and take steps to prevent fragmentation of land holdings.

(e) As per 'Agricultural Census 2000-01', the average size of land holding in the country is 1.32 hectares.

Subsidy and loans for deep-sea fishery sector

2635. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any move is there to extend soft loans to entrepreneurs buying expensive tuna boats and factory vessels;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a demand from industry for interest subsidy venture capital and seed capital to acquire expensive boats;

(c) whether there is no subsidy or incentive extended at all for the deep-sea fishery sector;

(d) what are the reasons for less than adequate interest in the development of deep-sea fisheries in the recent past; and

(e) the steps proposed to extend fiscal procedural facilitation and all other needs to encourage deep-sea facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) In order to encourage conversion of Deep Sea Trawlers into Tuna Long Liners, cash subsidy is provided.

(d) and (e) Adequate interest has been shown by the Union Government for development of deep-sea fisheries in the recent past as evidenced by (i) announcing